

of rescue stations and construction of new ones were drawn up for implementation. Compliance of statutory requirement of having rescue stations(RS) / rescue rooms (RR) within 35 km. of each operating U/G mine was kept in view while deciding sites of these rescue stations.

The Government of India constituted a Committee (Dubey Committee) which approved the locations of different rescue stations/RRs in different subsidiaries and also recommended the broad type of main rescue equipment to be provided in RS / RRs. Subsequently, the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines recommended the establishment of rescue stations / rescue rooms in such a manner in different subsidiary companies that emergent help from these rescue establishments are promptly available within half an hour should an emergent situation arise in any underground mine.

Since then the rescue services have been expanded and modernized by and large as on date 6 rescue stations, 14 Rescue-Rooms-With-Refresher - Training-Facilities and 18 rescue rooms are being maintained by CIL. Modern state of the art rescue equipment have been provided and rescue personnel trained in their use. Modernised training facilities have been provided for training of rescue personnel under simulated conditions.

Contract workers in Mahanadi Coalfields

1156. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state;
- (a) the total number of regular employees working in Mahanadi Coalfields;
 - (b) the total number of contract workers working in the same company;
 - (c) the jobs being done by the contract workers in these mines;
 - (d) whether the jobs done by contract workers are of permanent nature; and
 - (e) the reasons for engaging contract workers in such jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) As reported by Coal India Limited, 22529 regular employees and 7234 contract workers are working in Mahanadi Coalfields as on 1.2.2001.

(c) Work relating to civil construction erection, upkeeping periodic maintenance, transportation and security surveillance are being done by contract workers.

(d) and (e) Certain jobs such as security, transportation, etc. are permanent in nature and are attended to by Ex-servicemen sponsored by Director General of Resettlement. Engagement of contract worker is cost effective and is allowed only where the contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act permits it.